

Daniel 7:1-9  
SA230205

**“Man’ Viewpoint vs. God’s Viewpoint”**

1. It’s amazing how different our viewpoints can be from other people when we all see and hear the same thing.
  - **Well**, this is also true with God (from a different angle).
2. We see things as man sees them, and God sees things as they truly are.
3. In Daniel chapter 2 we saw how Nebuchadnezzar saw the kingdoms of the world as this beautiful statue covered in gold, silver, bronze, and iron.
  - **Today**, we will see the same vision from God’s perspective, and it will be presented as “wild beasts”
  - **Because** that is how man is due to the fall.
4. We will be looking at the same prophetic outlook that we saw in Chapter 2 but this time with a much greater level of detail.
  - **And** it will follow this pattern throughout the rest of the book.
5. In chapter 2 we got an overview of the kingdoms of the world.

- **Now**, we will get much greater detail.
6. God followed the same pattern in Genesis 1 by giving a general overview of creation.
    - **Then** in chapter 2, He gives details of how He did it.
  7. As we come to chapter 7 we once again find ourselves in the midst of one of the most specific, amazing, and convincing prophecies in all the Bible for the Bible skeptic.
    - **For** no one but God could so accurately predict the future with such detail.
  8. The first 6 chapters of Daniel are chronological and mostly historical.
    - **But** the last 6 are non-chronological and strictly prophetic.
  9. And it's important that we understand that God often goes outside of chronology in the Bible, especially with prophecy.
    - **Why?**
    - **Because** God sees all things at one time, and hence simply speaks back and forth historically as He sees it.
  10. Think of it like a hot air balloon.
    - **Not** one from China, but from heaven!
  11. We also need to recognize that God often uses symbols when it comes to prophecy, and hence

recognizing what those symbols mean is essential to understanding prophecy.

- **The** good news is all of the symbols in prophecy are found in the Bible.
- **And** once you understand them, God is consistent in His use of them throughout the Bible.

**v.1** Notice the first year of King Belshazzar.

- **This** means we now go back to one year before the writing on the wall in chapter 5.

**v.3** 1. Remember we said God uses symbols in prophecy.

- **The** “Great Sea” in scripture represents two things.
- **Either** literally the Mediterranean Sea or symbolically representative of the masses of peoples on the earth.

2. So how do we know the difference when it comes to symbolism?

- **The** context will always let you know and will force the right interpretation.
- **And** in this context, it is clearly not a literal sea, but rather a sea of peoples.

3. Notice the “four winds” of heaven covering all the earth are stirring up this sea of people on the earth.

- **This** is a picture of the nations of the earth being stirred by these beasts or kingdoms.
- **And** of course, we know that Satan is involved in this as well as 1<sup>st</sup> John tells us the entire world is under the sway of the evil one.

**v.4** 1. Daniel sees four beasts now rising out of the sea of peoples on the earth representing the 4 Kingdoms that Nebuchadnezzar saw in chapter 2.

- **The** first (the head of gold) is now seen as a Lion representing Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon.
- **Historically** the lion is a symbol of ancient Babylon.

2. And notice this beast stood upright and was given a man’s heart.

- **Just** like Nebuchadnezzar who became like a beast until God changed his heart.

**v.5** 1. Now he sees a Bear raised up on one side which represents the Medo-Persian empire, the empire that was seen as the “chest and arms of silver.”

- **And** why was it was raised on one side?

2. Because the Medes led the way in ruling first and then the Persians were stronger later on. We can now look back and see this happened historically.

- **Remember** this vision was before the Medes and the Persians came into power.

3. Notice next he saw three ribs in its mouth.

- **History** tells us that when the Medo-Persian Empire was established, they conquered 3 regions.

4. The Lydians fell to Cyrus in 546 BC.

- **The** Babylonians in 539 BC.
- **The** Egyptians in 525 BC.

**v.6** 1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Kingdom seen as a leopard represents the “belly and thighs of bronze.”

- **Which** we now know was Alexander the Great and the Greek Empire.

2. Notice this kingdom is represented as a leopard with four wings and four heads.

- **Why** a leopard with 4 wings?

3. A leopard is a very fast animal and its wings would only make it faster.

- **History** tells us of the incredible speed with which Alexander the Great conquered the entire world.

- **Established** ‘Blitzkrieg’.

4. At his death, he divided his kingdom into 4 regions and among 4 generals in his army which here is represented by the 4 wings.

- **So** they took his top 4 generals and divided up the kingdom between them.

5. Greece and Macedonia under Antipater.

- **Thrace** and Asia Minor under Lysimachus.
- **Asia** under Seleucus.
- **Egypt** under Ptolemy.

**v.7** 1. The 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom is made up of two different parts or times of history as portrayed in the two legs of iron with ten toes of iron and clay that we saw in chapter two.

- **And** because of Revelation, we now know it represents two phases of the Roman Empire.

2. The first happened in the days of Jesus, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a revived Roman Empire in the last days when the Lord will return.

- **And** the 2<sup>nd</sup> leg of this Empire is seen as even more wicked, more powerful, and more dreadful than the first.
- **And** markedly more fierce and frightening than the first 3!

3. While Daniel only saw the iron legs, this vision reveals iron teeth as well.

- **Showing** not only its ability to crush and destroy with its legs but to devour and tear with its teeth as well.
4. And notice it not only crushes **everything** in its way...
- **But** it even tramples the residue showing the thoroughness of its power and destruction.
5. The ten horns here coincide with the ten toes in Daniel 2.
- **Which** represents 10 rulers or possibly 10 regions that the world will be ruled by or divided up into in this revived Roman Empire.
6. The iron and clay imagery shows they won't totally agree or adhere together on every point like solid iron.
- **But** they will be "forced into this mold" by Satan and the world system.

**v.8** 1. From other passages, including in Revelation, we know that this "little horn" is the anti-Christ.

- **First**, the world system develops and is in place, and then this new horn suddenly rises.

2. What this indicates is that the anti-Christ will start relatively small or unknown as a political figure or world ruler...

- **But** then will rapidly grow big and become the most powerful of all.

4. And notice once in power, he will pull down 3 of the other world rulers or regions by the “roots” and do away with them.

- **We** aren’t told who or why, just that he does it.

5. And notice lastly he is speaking “pompous” words.

- **This** is a characteristic we will see more of when it comes to the anti-Christ.
- **He** is constantly portrayed as not only a big mouth but also as arrogant and boastful against God and His people.

**v.9** 1. Notice “thrones” were put in place.

- **Jesus** told his disciples they would rule with Him on thrones in His kingdom; We see them here.

2. Paul said in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 6 that we, the saved, will one day judge the earth!

- **Even** judge fallen angels!
- **And** that is what we see happening here.



3. Scripture tells us the Ancient of Days is God the Father.
  - **And** notice the throne has “wheels.”
4. We see the same thing in Ezekiel chapter 1.
  - **This** is why when we see the Ark of the covenant carved in stone in Capernaum and other places, it has wheels.
5. Which would appear to be simply the wheels of the Cherubim that are under the throne on all 4 corners.
  - **Explain** angels and “wheels.”